



## **HEALTH ALERT #0095**

### **Request for Cases of Influenza with Maculopapular Rash**

**TO:** West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities  
**FROM:** Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health  
**DATE:** March 26, 2015

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

Influenza activity across West Virginia has decreased significantly over the past several weeks. Overall, H3N2 viruses have predominated this season, but an increasing proportion of influenza B viruses are being detected across the state. Influenza B viruses predominately affect school aged children and often result in influenza outbreaks in school settings. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health has been notified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza (primarily influenza B virus infection) with maculopapular rash. The clinical significance of this syndrome is not yet clear. Rash is an uncommon complication of influenza and a very rare complication of influenza B virus infection.

The Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology is requesting assistance to identify cases and gather information on this clinical syndrome. Currently we are asking clinicians to report individuals who meet the following criteria:

1. Suspect measles infection OR
2. Onset of both rash and influenza-like illness\*

\*Influenza-like Illness is defined as a fever  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  and cough and/or sore throat (in the absence of a known cause other than influenza).

Please report cases immediately to your local health department so that appropriate specimen collection can be coordinated with the WV Office of Laboratory Services.

Specimen requirements for measles testing include a nasopharyngeal swab, serology, and urine. For additional information on specimen requirements please refer to the vaccine preventable disease referral testing guidance document: [http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/IBD\\_VPD/VPD/documents/vpd-reference-testing.pdf](http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/IBD_VPD/VPD/documents/vpd-reference-testing.pdf).

For more information, contact your local health department or DIDE at (800)-423-1271, ext. 1 or (304)-558-5358, ext. 1.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

**Categories of Health Alert messages:**

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance. Warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.